

June 27, 2013

The Common Council met as the Water Utility Board at 7:00 pm on the above date in the Meeting Room at City Hall Annex with Mayor Tucker presiding and members Shelton; Fuelling; Curtis; and Higgins attending. Board member Hoehn was not present. Others attending were Supt. Gray; Attorney Higgins; Chief Beloat; Chief Dixon; Supt. Givens; St. Comm. Dieterle; Ed Adams; Jerry Walden; and Sara Manifold – Mount Vernon Democrat.

Mayor Tucker called the meeting to order by stating members were either mailed or hand carried copies of the minutes of their previous meeting and by asking if there were any corrections or additions. He added if not, he entertains a motion to waive their reading and to approve the minutes as presented.

Board member Curtis moved the reading of the minutes be waived and they be approved as presented. Seconded by Board member Fuelling.

Mayor Tucker asked if there was any discussion ?

There was none.

Mayor Tucker stated all those in favor of the motion should signify in the affirmative; and following the vote, he reported the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Tucker requested action on the claims presented.

Board member Higgins moved the claims presented be allowed for payment. Seconded by Board member Shelton.

Mayor Tucker asked if there was any discussion ?

There was none.

Mayor Tucker stated all those in favor of the motion should signify in the affirmative; and following the vote, he reported the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Tucker stated they will now hear the report of the Water Chairman.

Water Chairman Curtis stated they have a lot going on, concerning a possible expansion, and Supt. Gray can elaborate.

Supt. Gray stated Pat Carroll from IDEM contacted him about a possible water main expansion project due to contamination of well water in certain areas. He stated in the areas in question, some wells contain practically sea water, some have methane as well. The area is in the vicinity of Rippy Road, and they are proposing a loop from Rippy to Dunn Cemetery, to Lower New Harmony. IDEM will also help the city out financially via grant – essentially an SRF loan that would be forgiven. But time is of the essence.

Chairman Curtis stated it is up to the city how the city would want to route the loop to include the greatest number of people.

Supt. Gray agreed. He then stated the plant can definitely handle the extra customers.

Board member Fuelling stated he feels the city should ask for the moon and see how far they get. He added he is aware of lots of bad wells out in those areas.

Chairman Curtis reiterated that time is of the essence and he feels they should submit application for the SRF loan and if they don't get it, the city will not be obligated in any way. He added he feels the Board should give Supt. Gray the authority to follow through on this and if he needs assistance with the application, the Coalition would be able to help.

Board member Higgins questioned the Lower New Harmony Road/Baseline Road area and possible expansion in that area ?

Supt. Gray replied GAF uses most of the capacity in that area.

Chairman Curtis stated he feels they need to put in as much water main as they can and tie in as many new customers as they can.

Supt. Gray agreed, with the loop that is possible. He added he wants to avoid water age problems which is why he wants to loop into an existing line.

Board member Fuelling also agreed and added they need to work on getting those loops done.

Board consented to have Supt. Gray proceed with SRF application.

Supt. Gray then stated his operating expenditures have been averaging around \$175,000 per month, and per an Umbaugh study, he was told to be sure to keep around three months of operating expenses in the Operating & Maintenance Fund. He has built up a balance in there now of around \$1.99M and he would like to transfer \$1.5M out into the Water Works Improvement Fund to begin line replacement.

Chairman Curtis asked that Attorney Higgins prepare the Resolution for the next meeting.

Board consented.

Supt. Gray continued his report by stating he has a tool truck that is a 1978 and another truck that is a 1982 Ford. He is getting quotes for the next meeting and would like to purchase two new trucks.

Mayor Tucker asked if there were any questions ?

There were none.

Mayor Tucker asked if the Clerk-Treasurer had any Communications for the Board ?

Clerk-Treasurer Sitzman replied not at this time.

Mayor Tucker asked if there were any Legals for consideration ?

Attorney Higgins stated there needs to be some emergency repairs done to the Trident filters. She stated there is still money in the Construction Fund because they had such a well organized project. She added there is around \$141,000 left and Supt. Gray needs \$98,372.00 for the emergency repairs.

In order to make the repair from this fund the city needs to certify that they did not anticipate there would be money left after the project and that the project is similar in nature to the original project.

Board member Curtis moved Board recommend passage the Resolution Authorizing the Use of Monies Remaining in the Water Construction Fund for Emergency Repairs to the Trident Filters to the Council. Seconded by Board member Fuelling.

Mayor Tucker asked if there was any discussion ?

There was none.

Mayor Tucker requested a roll call vote.

Roll was called by the Clerk-Treasurer with Board voting as follows:

Shelton – yes; Fuelling – yes; Hoehn – absent;

Curtis – yes; Higgins – yes.

Mayor Tucker stated the motion carried.

Mayor Tucker asked if anyone in the Audience wished to address the Board ?

There was no response.

Mayor Tucker asked if there was any Old Business ?

There was none.

Mayor Tucker asked if there was any New Business ?

There was none.

Mayor Tucker stated if there was no further business, he entertains a motion to adjourn.

Board member Curtis moved the meeting be adjourned. Seconded by Board member Higgins.

Mayor Tucker stated all those in favor of the motion should signify in the affirmative; and following the vote, he reported the motion carried unanimously and adjourned the meeting.

John Tucker
Mayor

ATTEST:

Cristi L. Sitzman
Clerk-Treasurer

The Common Council met immediately following the Water Utility Board on the above date in the Meeting Room at City Hall Annex with Mayor Tucker presiding and members Shelton; Fuelling; Curtis; and Higgins attending. Councilman Hoehn was not present. Others attending were Supt. Gray; Attorney Higgins; Chief Beloit; Chief Dixon; Supt. Givens; St. Comm. Dieterle; Ed Adams; Jerry Walden; and Sara Manifold – Mount Vernon Democrat.

Mayor Tucker called the meeting to order by stating members were either mailed or hand carried copies of the minutes of their previous meeting, as well as those of the Special Session, and by asking if there were any corrections or additions. He added if not, he entertains a motion to waive their reading and to approve the minutes as presented.

Councilman Fuelling moved the reading of the minutes be waived and they be approved as presented. Seconded by Councilman Curtis.

Mayor Tucker asked if there was any discussion ?

There was none.

Mayor Tucker stated all those in favor of the motion should signify in the affirmative; and following the vote, he reported the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Tucker stated they will now hear the reports of the Stand Committees.

Street & Light Chairman Hoehn was not present.

St. Comm. Dieterle stated he has no report.

Mayor Tucker asked if there were any questions ?

There were none.

Police & Dog Chairwoman Higgins stated she has no report.

Chief Beloit stated he has no report.

Mayor Tucker asked if there were any questions ?

There were none.

Fire Chairwoman Shelton stated she has no report.

Chief Dixon stated he has no report.

Mayor Tucker asked if there were any questions ?

There were none.

Sewer Chairman Fuelling stated he has no report.

Supt. Givens stated at the last meeting he was asked, by Councilman Hoehn, to take a look at the east side of town concerning gravity flow sewers. He added he did go out there and take some pictures and

has the information ready but he will hold off on reporting until the next meeting when Councilman Hoehn can be present.

Mayor Tucker asked if there were any questions ?

There were none.

Mayor Tucker asked if the Clerk-Treasurer had any Communications for the Council ?

Clerk-Treasurer Sitzman stated she has received tax settlement from the county and all departments got through Spring not needing a loan. Hopefully they will do as well and not need one before Fall installment is received.

Mayor Tucker stated they are now ready for the Legal portion of the Agenda.

Attorney Higgins stated they have the annexation ordinances up for second reading tonight; the Public Hearing will be held on August 22, followed by third reading.

Councilwoman Higgins moved the Ordinance to Annex Certain Territory Contiguous to the City of Mount Vernon – West Ridge, pass on second reading. Seconded by Councilwoman Shelton.

Mayor Tucker asked if there was any discussion ?

There was none.

Mayor Tucker requested a roll call vote.

Roll was called by the Clerk-Treasurer with Council voting as follows:

Shelton – yes; Fuelling – yes; Hoehn – absent;

Curtis – yes; Higgins – yes.

Mayor Tucker stated the motion carried.

Attorney Higgins again stated they need to defer any further reading until August 22.

Councilman Curtis moved the Ordinance to Annex Certain Territory Contiguous to the City of Mount Vernon – Lakeview Place “B”, Lots 12 through 19 pass on second reading. Seconded by Councilwoman Higgins.

Mayor Tucker asked if there was any discussion ?

There was none.

Mayor Tucker requested a roll call vote.

Roll was called by the Clerk-Treasurer with Council voting as follows:

Shelton – yes; Fuelling – yes; Hoehn – absent;

Curtis – yes; Higgins – yes.

Mayor Tucker stated the motion carried.

Attorney Higgins stated the next item is the Western Hills Country Club annexation.

Councilman Fuelling moved the Ordinance to Annex Certain Territory Contiguous to the City of Mount Vernon – Western Hills Country Club pass on second reading. Seconded by Councilman Curtis.

Mayor Tucker asked if there was any discussion ?

There was none.

Mayor Tucker requested a roll call vote.

Roll was called by the Clerk-Treasurer with Council voting as follows:

Shelton – yes; Fuelling – yes; Hoehn – absent;

Curtis – yes; Higgins – yes.

Mayor Tucker stated the motion carried.

Attorney Higgins stated the next item has to do with the Mount Vernon Redevelopment Commission. She added they need to have an organizational meeting very soon. The Mayor has three appointments and the Council has two – they need to make those appointments now. Again, they need to meeting in

the first couple of weeks of July and whoever they choose will also need to be bonded, so they need to get started on that.

Councilman Curtis stated he hasn't talked with anyone.

Councilwoman Shelton added she hasn't either.

Attorney Higgins stated they will have an annual meeting, and if they set up any TIF districts, etc. they would approve that – it could be a busy commission.

Councilwoman Higgins asked Ed Adams if he would consider serving ?

Attorney Higgins added there could be four to five meetings this year.

Councilwoman Higgins moved Ed Adams be an appointment from the Council. Seconded by Councilman Fuelling.

Mayor Tucker stated all those in favor of the motion should signify in the affirmative; and following the vote, he reported the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Tucker stated he has, so far, chosen Larry Williams and Mike Ashworth. He then stated Council needs to go out the next day or two and see if they can find someone.

Attorney Higgins asked that she be notified as soon as possible as she would like to meet early in the middle of the week of July 8th.

Attorney Higgins stated the next item is the Resolution authorizing payment of emergency repairs on the Trident from the Water Construction Fund, as recommended by the Water Utility Board.

Councilman Curtis moved the Resolution be approved. Seconded by Councilwoman Shelton.

Mayor Tucker asked if there was any discussion ?

There was none.

Mayor Tucker requested a roll call vote.

Roll was called by the Clerk-Treasurer with Council voting as follows:

Shelton – yes; Fuelling – yes; Hoehn – absent;

Curtis – yes; Higgins – yes.

Mayor Tucker stated the motion carried.

Clerk-Treasurer Sitzman added it will be numbered 13-15.

Attorney Higgins stated the next item is the funding for the police and fire station. At the last meeting several options were presented to Council and she now needs their direction. She added she had one question come up in the last two weeks, that being if they could pay additional principle and possibly pay off earlier. She stated they can not pay extra as they go along, but they could have a “call feature” at eight or 10 years. At that point, they could then decide if they want to pay off in full.

Councilman Curtis stated it may cost a bit more as well, per Attorney Higgins' email; with the call option.

Attorney Higgins agreed and added it would be hard to utilize the call in eight years.

Councilman Fuelling agreed.

Councilman Curtis stated he feels they would be better off going with a 15 year term.

Councilwoman Shelton agreed.

Councilwoman Higgins agreed as well and added back in 2009 they were hit with several very expensive ice storms, that clean up was hard to finance.

Councilman Curtis again added he is leaning towards 15 years.

Attorney Higgins stated they have different options on where to get the funds: a blend of EDIT/CCDF; full EDIT; or a special tax rates. She asked which option Council desires so that she may get the process in motion.

Councilwoman Higgins questioned Clerk-Treasurer Sitzman.

Clerk-Treasurer Sitzman replied CCDF is where the current fire truck payment is taken from. She understood they are looking at possibly purchasing another new fire truck in the near future. She stated

in the past, she has had to look elsewhere to cover the full fire truck payment, as CCDF did not fund all of it.

Councilman Curtis questioned Chief Dixon on the approximate cost of the new fire truck.

Chief Dixon replied around \$500,000+.

Councilman Curtis stated he would like to see them use the blend: \$20,000 from CCDF and the remainder from EDIT.

Attorney Higgins questioned the term ?

Councilman Curtis replied 15 years.

Councilman Fuelling questioned the borrowing of money ?

Attorney Higgins replied if they are not going to borrow, they will need to go through a building corporation.

Councilman Curtis then moved the funding for the police and fire station be as follows: a blend of CCDF/EDIT; \$20,000 from CCDF, the remainder from EDIT; the term be 15 years; and they utilize the building corporation. Seconded by Councilwoman Higgins.

Mayor Tucker asked if there was any discussion ?

There was none.

Mayor Tucker requested a roll call vote.

Roll was called by the Clerk-Treasurer with Council voting as follows:

Shelton – yes; Fuelling – yes; Hoehn – absent;

Curtis – yes; Higgins – yes.

Mayor Tucker stated the motion carried.

Mayor Tucker asked if anyone in the Audience wished to address the Council ?

There was no response.

Mayor Tucker asked if there was any Old Business ?

Councilwoman Higgins stated at the last meeting she suggested a stop sign at Locust and E Water Street. She added St. Comm. Dieterle said he put some traffic counters down there last week and the area does not meet the requirements for a stop sign. She continued by stating she would like to add crosswalks instead at Mulberry and Water and Walnut and Water. Folks will still jaywalk, but maybe it will help slow down traffic some.

St. Comm. Dieterle stated the speed limit in the area is 30 MPH and maybe they could look at lowering that to 20 MPH before the pedestrian walkway.

Chief Beloit stated he wanted the stop sign and a pedestrian crosswalk. Again he stated, he was a supporter the stop sign. Anything in the area is beneficial.

Councilwoman Higgins stated she would like to see something done and in place before the Landing opens up.

Councilman Fuelling stated signs should go up regardless for pedestrians.

Councilman Curtis asked if they need an ordinance for that ?

Attorney Higgins replied no.

Councilman Fuelling stated he is not opposed to stop sign and he likes Comm. Dieterle's suggestion on reducing speed a block sooner.

Councilman Higgins suggested a little bit of both maybe, and yes, she likes the stop sign.

Councilman Fuelling stated the Azalea Club will also be putting up a kiosk type of sign.

Councilwoman Higgins added there are a lot of distractions down there right now, they really need something in place. She then moved a 3-way stop be put in at Locust and E Water Street; the speed limit be reduced to 20 MPH west bound at Locust and Canal; crosswalks be put in at Mulberry and Water and Walnut and Water; and appropriate signage. Seconded by Councilman Fuelling.

Mayor Tucker asked if there was any discussion ?

There was none.

Mayor Tucker requested a roll call vote.

Roll was called by the Clerk-Treasurer with Council voting as follows:

Shelton – yes; Fuelling – yes; Hoehn – absent;

Curtis – yes; Higgins – yes.

Mayor Tucker stated the motion carried.

Mayor Tucker stated they will now hear the reports of the Districts.

1st District Councilwoman Shelton stated she has no report.

2nd District Councilman Fuelling stated he has no report.

3rd District Councilman Hoehn was not present.

4th District Councilman Curtis stated he took the grandkids down to the Arts Fest and they played in the water feature at the riverfront and had a ball.

Councilwoman-at-Large Higgins stated she has no report.

Mayor Tucker stated they will now take a brief recess after which he invites Council and Department Heads back to discuss budget preparation for 2014.

RECESS

Mayor Tucker reconvened Council after a brief recess by stating they need to get an earlier start on budgets than they did last year. He added Clerk-Treasurer Sitzman is anxious to get the ball rolling as well. He asked where they wanted to start the conversation.

Clerk-Treasurer Sitzman stated she wants to be sure everyone is up on the “lingo” that she and the DLGF use for budgets. She then stated the levy is the amount of money that the city will be able to raise off property tax to fund their budgets. She reminded them that CCDF is a special rate, outside of their levy. In 2013, the certified levy was \$3,261,931. As they can see from the email from Robert Norris of the DLGF, the talk is that any increase will be less than the 2.8% the city received last year. She then stated she has given Council a handout with a couple of scenarios, one being a 2% increase, the other a 2.5% increase.

Councilman Curtis stated it really is a crap shoot.

Councilman Fuelling stated at 2.5% there could be room for some adjustments within budgets.

Councilman Curtis stated if the city gets cut, they get cut and will have to make the appropriate adjustments.

Councilman Fuelling stated he would be comfortable with the 2.5% overall budget increase and then questioned any raises ?

Chief Beloit stated asked if they were looking at 2.5% overall increase or 2.5% raise? He then stated his budget is 87% the salary package. He then added he prefers a percentage raise.

Councilman Curtis stated he likes the flat, across the Board raise.

Councilman Fuelling stated he would like to see some kind of raise.

Councilman Curtis agreed.

Chief Dixon stated a raise in longevity is nice. When the police and fire retire they get to take 100% of that with them.

Chief Beloit agreed that longevity is an issue, especially when it comes to new hires.

Mayor Tucker stated he isn't sure he agrees with that as when a young person is hired, they are more concentrated on those early years of raising kid, paying the mortgage, etc. He wondered about a partial raise and giving \$2 more a month on longevity.

Chief Beloit stated he would like to see a little bit of both, yes.

Chief Dixon agreed.

Mayor Tucker asked if they want across the board raise for full time or a percentage ?

Councilman Curtis stated across the board.

Council concurred.

Mayor Tucker questioned an amount ? \$500 ? \$700 ? He suggested a compromise of \$600.00.

Councilman Fuelling add and \$2 increase in longevity per month.

Councilwoman Shelton stated they should try a flat \$600 raise for full time employees, plus \$2 per month longevity increase, since no one got a raise last year.

Councilman Fuelling stated and the overall budget should not increase more than 2.5%.

Councilwoman Shelton agreed and added see how that works out.

Mayor Tucker stated budgets should be turned in to his office on July 8 by 3:00 pm and the hearings will be held on July 10 at 9:00 am, all day, with the 11th schedule only if they can not get done on the 10th.

Mayor Tucker requested a motion to adjourn.

Councilman Fuelling moved the meeting be adjourned. Seconded by Councilman Curtis.

Mayor Tucker stated all those in favor of the motion should signify in the affirmative; and following the vote, he reported the motion carried unanimously and adjourned the meeting.

John Tucker, Mayor

ATTEST:

Cristi L. Sitzman
Clerk-Treasurer